

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 February 2004 (05.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/010892 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A62B 7/10**,
19/00, 23/02 [US/US]; 108 Orchard Lane, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US2003/023556**
- (22) International Filing Date: **25 July 2003 (25.07.2003)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:
60/398,684 **26 July 2002 (26.07.2002)** **US**
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY [US/US]; 335 George Street, Suite 3200, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 (US).**
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **MILLES, Maano**
- (74) Agent: **FRISCIA, Michael, R.; Wolff & Samson P.C., One Boland Drive, West Orange, NJ 07052 (US).**
- (81) Designated States (national): **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.**
- (84) Designated States (regional): **ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,**

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EVACUATING NITROUS OXIDE**



(57) Abstract: An anesthetic gas scavenging system (10) is provided. The system includes a housing having one or more apertures (70) placed proximate to a patient's mouth and a vacuum source interconnected with the housing for excavating anesthesia exhaled by the patient. The housing can take the form of a circular tube (20) and can be positioned to rest about a patient's neck. The housing can have closed ends (30) attachable together about a patient's neck. Alternatively, the housing can take on other desired shapes, and can be suspended on a strap about a patient's neck to rest on the patient's chest.

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SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
13 May 2004

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/23556

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER												
IPC(7) : A62B 7/10, 19/00, 23/02												
US CL : 128/205.12, 205.19, 910												
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC												
B. FIELDS SEARCHED												
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 128/205.12, 205.19, 910												
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched NONE												
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) NONE												
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT												
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.										
Y	US 5,715,813 A (GUEVREKIAN) 10 FEBRUARY 1998, SEE FIG.1 AND COL.5, LINES 10-15 AND LINES 57-59)	1-3,5-10,12-21										
Y	US 3,955,570 A (HUTTER, III) 11 MAY 1976, SEE FIGS.1 AND 3 AND ELEMENTS #58, 78, 80	1,3,5,8,10,12,13,16-18,21										
Y	US 4,151,843 A (BREKKE ET AL.) 01 MAY 1979, SEE FIG.1 AND COL.3, LINES 39-43.	14,15										
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.												
* Special categories of cited documents: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed												
Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 January 2004 (28.01.2004)		Date of mailing of the international search report 28 FEB 2004										
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230		Authorized officer AARON J. LEWIS Telephone No. (703) 308-0858										